In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 21, and 28, without prejudice, as follows:

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for conducting speech therapy comprising:

displaying a picture, wherein the picture comprises a plurality of aspects;

generating speech prompts for information describing each of the plurality of aspects of the picture;

inputting speech responses, including user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects;

performing speech recognition on the input speech responses, including the user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects to recognize words comprising the responses;

performing natural language analysis of the recognized words to determine whether the user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects accurately describes the plurality of aspects   generating a prompt to use each of the plurality of aspects in a sentence if the user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects accurately describes the plurality of aspects,

receiving a sentence from said user responsive to said prompt,

performing natural language analysis, to analyze the semantic content of the sentence for appropriate sentence correctness, and

providing feedback to the user regarding the correctness of the semantic content of the sentence.

12. (Amended) A system for conducting speech therapy comprising:

a visual display device for displaying a picture, the picture comprising a plurality of aspects;

a microphone adapted to capture sounds spoken by a user to describe the plurality of aspects of the picture;

a speaker adapted to output sound in response to the sounds spoken by the user;

a processor including memory coupled to the visual display device and the speaker and receiving the sounds from the microphone, the processor being programmed to:

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display the picture, including the plurality of aspects;

generate speech prompts for information describing each of the plurality of aspects of the picture;

receive as inputs, speech responses, including user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects;

perform speech recognition on the input speech responses to recognize words comprising the response, including the user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects;

perform natural language analysis of the recognized words to determine whether the user identification of each of the plurality of aspects accurately describes the plurality of aspects generate a prompt to use each of the plurality of aspects in a sentence if the user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects accurately describes the plurality of aspects,

receive a sentence from said user responsive to said prompt,

perform natural language analysis, to analyze the semantic content of the sentence for appropriate sentence correctness, and

provide feedback to the user regarding the correctness of the semantic content of the sentence.

21. (Amended) A method for conducting speech therapy comprising:

displaying a picture, wherein the picture comprises a plurality of aspects;

generating a prompt for first information describing a first of the plurality of aspects of the picture;

inputting a speech response, wherein the input speech response includes a user-identification of the first aspect;

performing speech recognition on the input speech response, including the user-identified first aspect in order to recognize words comprising the input speech response;

performing natural language analysis of the recognized words to determine whether the user-identified first aspect accurately describes the first aspect;

repeating the steps of prompt generating, speech response inputting, speech recognition performing and natural language analysis performing for each of the remaining plurality of aspects generating a prompt for second information, wherein the second information includes a sentence describing the entire picture,

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receiving a sentence from said user responsive to said prompt,

performing natural language analysis, to analyze the semantic content of the sentence for appropriate sentence correctness, and

providing feedback to the user regarding the correctness of the semantic content of the sentence.

28. (Amended) A system for conducting speech therapy, comprising:

a display for displaying a picture, the picture comprising a plurality of aspects,

input means for receiving a spoken description of each of the plurality of aspects of the picture by a user;

output means adapted to output a response to the spoken user description; and,

processing unit means coupled to the display means, the input means, and the output means, the processing unit means being programmed to:

analyze the spoken user description of each of the plurality of aspects, to determine whether the spoken user description of each of the aspects accurately describes the respective aspect of the picture, and,

generate a prompt for the user to use each of the plurality of aspects in a sentence describing the picture if the spoken user description of each of the plurality of aspects accurately describes the respective aspect of the picture,

receive a sentence from said user responsive to said prompt,

perform natural language analysis, to analyze the semantic content of the sentence for appropriate sentence correctness, and

provide feedback to the user regarding the correctness of the semantic content of the sentence.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed with the accompanying RCE instead of an appeal brief because on reconsideration a limited additional limitation appears likely to resolve the discussion regarding patentability. Although the undersigned and the Examiner did not agree about the patentability of the amendment in a telephone conversation, it is believed that the amendments to the independent claims made hereby will make the application acceptable and allowable. These changes were not submitted in documentary form previously although their scope was discussed. It is the Applicant's position that the additional limitations speak to

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